

and costs. *Id.* at 10. In addition to reimbursement for counsel, petitioner also seeks reimbursement of her own out-of-pocket expenses in the amount of \$42.43. *Id.* at 1.

On August 2, 2018, respondent filed a response to petitioner's motion. Respondent's Response (ECF No. 51). Respondent argued that "[n]either the Vaccine Act nor Vaccine Rule 13 contemplates any role for respondent in the resolution of a request by a petitioner for an award of attorneys' fees and costs." *Id.* at 1. Further, respondent "is satisfied the statutory requirements for an award of attorneys' fees and costs are met in this case." *Id.* at 2. Respondent "respectfully recommends that the Special Master exercise his discretion and determine a reasonable award for attorneys' fees and costs." *Id.* at 3.

Petitioner did not file a reply. This matter is now ripe for adjudication.

Under the Vaccine Act, the special master shall award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs for any petition that results in an award of compensation. 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(3) (1). Petitioner in this case was awarded compensation pursuant to a stipulation, and therefore he is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

The hourly rates requested by petitioner's counsel are within the appropriate hourly rate ranges established in *McCulloch v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, No. 09-293V, 2015 WL 5634323 (Fed. Cl. Spec. Mstr. Sept. 1, 2015) for attorneys of their experience, and they have been awarded the requested hourly rates previously. *See e.g., Damron v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, No. 17-890V, 2018 WL -----, (Fed. Cl. Spec. Mstr. August 14, 2018).

I have reviewed the billing records and invoices submitted with petitioner's motion. The billing entries reflect the nature of each task performed, the amount of time expended, and the person performing each task. The expenses incurred are well-documented and based on my experience they appear reasonable. I find no cause to adjust the time expended or the costs. Thus, the requested attorneys' fees and costs are awarded in full.

Petitioner also requested reimbursement for \$42.43 of copying costs paid out-of-pocket, which is reasonable and is awarded in full. Pet. Motion at 4.

In accordance with the foregoing, petitioner's application for attorneys' fees and costs is **GRANTED**.

Accordingly, I award the following:

- 1) A lump sum in the amount of \$52,824.24, representing reimbursement for petitioner's attorneys' fees and costs, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and her attorney, William Cochran, of Black McLaren, et al., PC.³**

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs," and fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, Section 15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. *See generally Beck v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs.*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

- 2) A lump sum in the amount of \$42.43, representing reimbursement for petitioner's costs, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.**

In the absence of a motion for reconsideration or a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the Clerk of the Court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** herewith.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Thomas L. Gowen

Thomas L. Gowen
Special Master

⁴ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.